



# Mater Dei Catholic School

## 2018 National Blue Ribbon School

The President's Pen

May 1, 2020

May 1, 2020

Dear Parents,

Good afternoon! I am writing to you today to express my sincere gratitude to you for all you continue to do to support your child/children's Catholic education at Mater Dei Catholic School. When Governor Wolf issued the "stay at home" order in March, we had no idea of what that would mean for all of us. These past seven weeks have been filled with new opportunities for us as a school community. I know you have had to make many accommodations in your home to create a learning environment for your children to participate in our eLearning Program while so many of you are working from home. Your efforts and continued support do not go unnoticed. Thank you for all you have done for your children. We have all learned things we never knew before and from all the positive reflections you have shared Mater Dei has grown as a community.

One of the greatest gifts that we have received since March 13th are the beautiful pictures of your smiling children that you share with us regularly. The MD website and the Mater Dei Facebook page are filled with the adorable faces of our children holding up their letter of the day in pajamas, working with siblings at the dining room table, focusing on lessons at desks in their bedrooms, singing along with music class (in some homes, the entire family gets involved), exercising in the family room for gym class, displaying awesome artwork, singing and dancing the Macarena in Spanish, tossing a diploma to an eighth grade classmate on TikTok, or most importantly praying together during morning prayer. The photo that caught my attention this week is one sweet second grade boy creating his "MD" for Earth Week from things he found in nature with the caption "**MD Strong 2020.**" I have to be honest with you that picture brought tears to my eyes knowing how much effort our parents and teachers are putting into caring for the children of Mater Dei during such uncertain times.

This past Sunday, I watched an interview with Julie Andrews. She was talking about things she learned about life from her grandmother.

*"Everything has a beginning, a middle, and an end."* What a lesson! There

will be an end to what we are experiencing right now. The Mater Dei community will gather again and we will be stronger!

As we look to the future, your family is most important to Mater Dei. The Board of Limited Jurisdiction and school administration want to do everything in our power to be sure your awesome children take their rightful seats at Mater Dei Catholic School in September. To that end, the tuition schedule for the 2020 -2021 school year has been altered to provide seven different payment options. Hopefully, the variety of options will meet your family's needs. The schedule is outlined in detail on the [documents attached](#) to this Pen. After reviewing the new payment options for 2020 -2021, if you wish to change your current payment plan, please contact Mrs. Rosemary O'Tormey [rotormey@materdeicatholic.com](mailto:rotormey@materdeicatholic.com) by May 15th.

We want to support your family. If you need tuition assistance, in order to be eligible for any scholarships, (BLOCS, Polar Plunge, Heritage of Faith, Private Donations, Parish Scholarships), it is imperative that you apply as soon as possible through FACTS using the following link below.

<https://online.factsmtg.com/signin/4LFDH>

Several members of our community have reached out to me with a desire to anonymously assist any Mater Dei families in need of assistance with food or other basic needs you may have for your children. Please feel free to contact me and I will help to facilitate the process with total confidentiality and sensitivity.

Thank you, again, for all you are doing to support your children. I am extremely grateful to you for working as a team with our teachers to care for the spiritual, academic, and social development of the children of Mater Dei. Please let us continue to pray for one another that God will give us His strength and peace. May He bless you and your families today and always.

Most sincerely,

Miss Diane E. McCaughan  
President

